



ARIZONA NURSE PRACTICE ACT

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Purpose of the ASBN

- **Assures nurses are competent/qualified for licensure/certification**
 - Prescribes minimum educational standards
 - Examination requirements
 - Fingerprint background
- **Ensures standards of practice are met**
- **Approves nursing educational programs**
- **Investigates complaints/administers discipline**
- **Protects the public**

Case Study: "Jane"

- **Jane, FNP, hired by psychiatric treatment facility**
- **Independently managed over 250 SMI psychiatric patients**
- **Performed psychiatric evaluations and diagnosis of new patients**

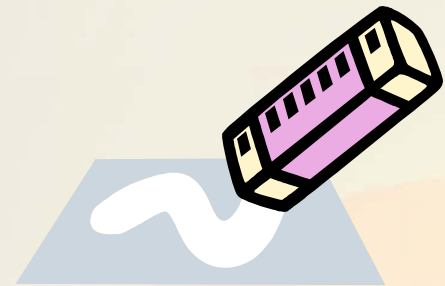
Education

- **No Graduate Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing**
- **No Advanced Practice Certification in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing**
- **No National Certification in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing**

Qualifications?

Self-reported qualifications in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing included:

- **“I was around psychiatric patients a lot doing H&Ps and picked up a lot of information”**
- **“I guess it just rubbed off on me”**



Board Outcome

- **Decree Of Censure**



Violation - Unprofessional Conduct

Assuming patient care responsibilities that the nurse lacks the education to perform, for which the nurse has failed to maintain nursing competence, or that are outside the scope of practice of the nurse



NP Certification Requirements

Requirements for certification as an RNP in a SPECIALTY AREA:

- **Current RN license in good standing from Arizona or from a compact party state**
- **Graduate degree in Nursing**
- **Completion of an approved/recognized NP program in the specialty area for which the applicant is applying**
- **After 7/1/04 current National Certification as NP in specialty area for which the applicant applying**



Specialty Areas

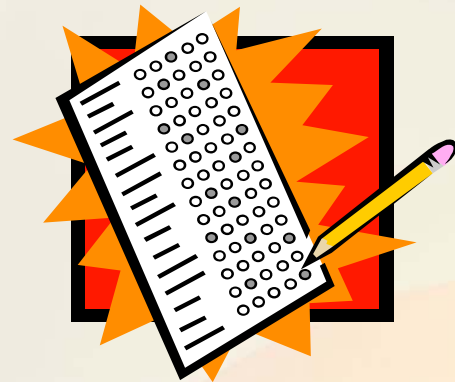
- **Approved by the Board**
- **Broad enough to prepare as RNP and within a specialty area**
- **Recognized as an advanced practice specialty area by a national certifying body according to Board criteria**

Specialty Areas-Certifying Bodies

- **Accredited**
- **Educational requirements consistent with R4-19-505**
- **Documents education and clinical practice in the specialty area being certified**
- **National in scope**
- **Examination basis for certification in the specialty area**

Specialty Areas-Certifying Exams

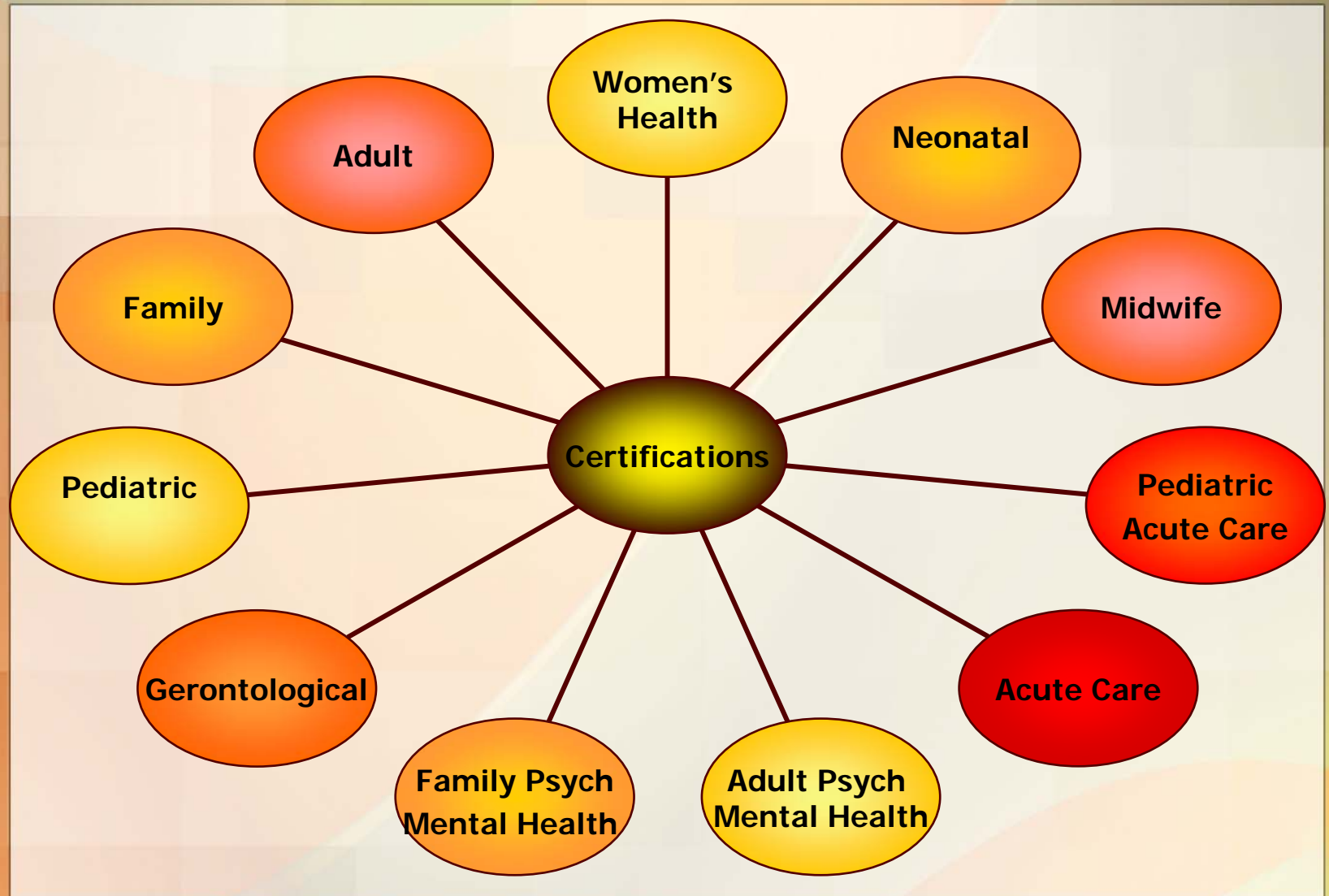
- **Assess entry-level practice in the AP category and specialty area**
- **Assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities essential for the delivery of safe and effective care**



Currently Approved Certifying Bodies

- **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners**
- **American Nurses Credentialing Center**
- **Pediatric Nursing Certification Board**
- **National Certification Corporation for Obstetric, Gynecological, and Neonatal Nursing Specialties**
- **American College of Nurse Midwives**

Currently Approved NP Specialty Area Exams



Certification Requirements: "Grandfathering"



- **National Certification**
 - Not required if certified as NP in the specialty area in this or another state on or before July 1, 2004
- **Graduate Degree in Nursing**
 - Not required if certified as NP in the specialty area in this or another state before January 1, 2001

Expiration and Renewal

- **Certificates issues prior to 7/1/04 expire if the RN license expires and automatically renew when the RN license is renewed**
 - No proof of national certification required
- **Certificates issued after 7/1/04 expire when the RN license expires and do not automatically renew**
 - To renew: provide proof of continued national certification

Proposed Rule: AP Practice Requirement for Renewal

Must practice advanced practice nursing at the applicable level of certification for a minimum of 960 hours in the five years preceding the renewal application



Proposed Rule: AP Practice Requirement

Requirement satisfied if the applicant:

- **Completed an advanced practice nursing education program within the past five years; OR**
- **Practiced for a minimum of 960 hours within the past five years where the nurse:**
 - **Worked as an RNP or CNS for compensation or as a volunteer; or**
 - **Held a position for compensation or as a volunteer that required or recommended, in the job description, the level of advanced practice certification being sought or renewed.**

Proposed Rule: AP Practice Requirement

If practice requirement NOT met must:

- **Show evidence of current national certification in the category and specialty area of Board certification; OR**
- **Complete formal coursework to include:**
 - 45 hours advanced pharmacology
 - 45 hours related to the specialty AND
 - engage in a period of *precepted clinical practice* as specified:

Proposed Rule: AP Practice Requirement

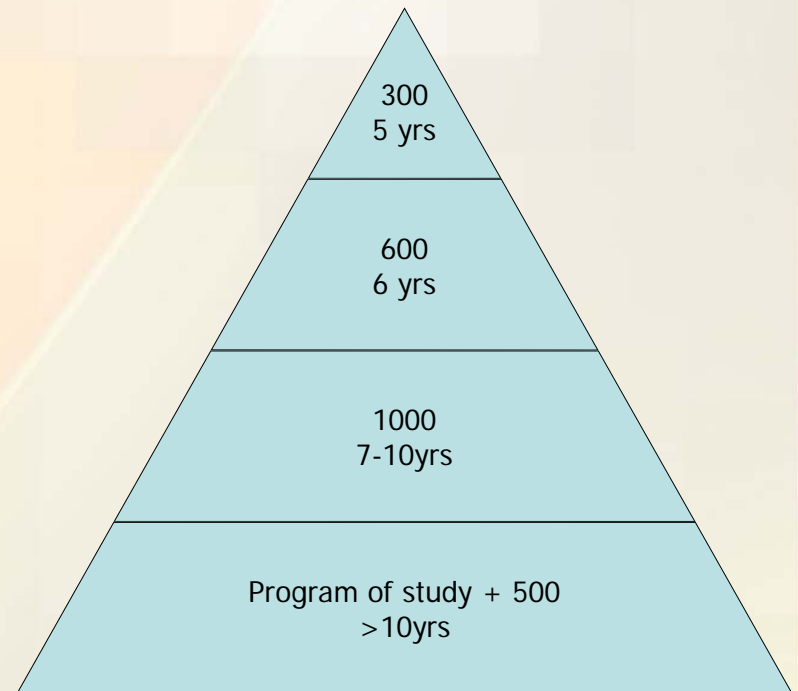
< 960 practice hours:

**–Only last 5 years = 300
precepted hours**

**–Last 5 years, but ≥ 960 in
past 6 years = 600 precepted
hours**

**–Last 6 years, but ≥ 960 in
past 7 to 10 years = 1000
precepted hours**

**–Greater than 10 years =
program of study + 500 hours
supervised clinical practice**



Certification and Scope of Practice

**An NP has an expanded scope of practice
*within the limits of the specialty area of
certification***

- **Including any “additional acts” that the NP is qualified to perform via education and training**

Case Study: "Jill"

- **Jill, WHCNP, accepted a position that required FNP certification**
- **Jill did not hold or meet requirements for FNP certification**
- **Subsequently treated male and pediatric patients for general medical problems**
- **Was reported to Board by employer for multiple practice related concerns**

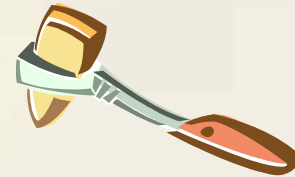
Patient Events

- **Prescribed narcotics to an identified drug-seeker and without a DEA number**
- **Failed to assess the tetanus immunization status of a patient who had sustained puncture wounds which were contaminated with road dirt**

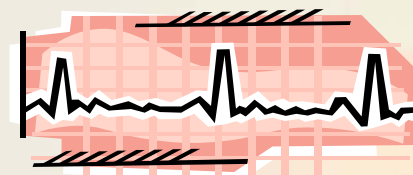


Patient Events

- Failed to perform a neurological exam, order diagnostic testing, or document treatment or follow up plan for an assault victim with soft tissue swelling at the base of the skull who complained of headaches



- Failed to examine and/or immediately refer a 77 year old patient who presented with high blood pressure, tightness in her chest, shortness of breath, and an abnormal electrocardiogram



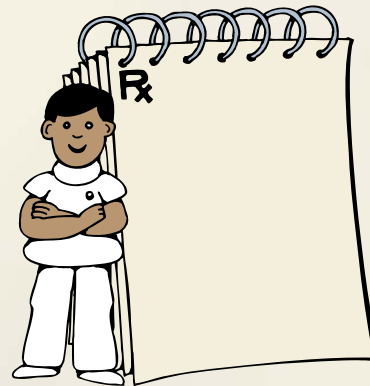
Board Outcome

- **Jill was found to be practicing outside of scope and to have provided substandard care**
- **AP certificate inactivated for 3 years**
- **RN license on probation**



Certification and P&D Authority

An NP is authorized to prescribe and dispense drugs and devices *within the NP's specialty area*



P&D Unprofessional Conduct

- **Prescribing a controlled substance to one's self or to a family member**
- **Delegating the prescribing and dispensing of drugs or devices to any other person**
- **Providing any controlled substance or prescription-only drug or device for other than accepted therapeutic purposes**



P&D Unprofessional Conduct

NP cannot prescribe or dispense UNLESS the nurse has examined the person and established a professional relationship



Exceptions:

- **Temporary care on behalf of patient's regular provider**
- **Emergency medical situation for the preservation of health, life, or limb, or**
- **Preparation for a medical examination**

Summary

- **NPs are certified in specialty areas according to specified regulatory requirements**
- **NP scope of practice including P&D authority is limited to the specialty area of certification**
- **Public is protected by ensuring minimum competency requirements/practice standards are upheld**

